



ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

**Annual Report
2023**



Superior Court of California

County of Orange

Juvenile Justice Commission

Dear Reader:

What a privilege it has been to serve as the Chair of the Juvenile Justice Commission this past year. Working with a group of such committed, talented, and compassionate individuals is inspiring. Any job is easier when there are many willing hands, and this group of Commissioners exemplifies the truth of that. So, I begin with my thanks to them for their commitment to our mission.

As we fulfilled our responsibility for mandated inspections of Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs, we were encouraged by the commitment of program staff and some of the innovative strategies being explored. Given the challenges and trauma of the youth being served there is a constant need to be aware of and open to new strategies and treatment options to provide the best possible care and outcomes.

As mentioned in last year's Annual Report the Commission has continued to explore ways beyond inspections to add opportunities that can benefit the children and youth under care. In addition to the Essay Contest which had its 6th year, two Commissioners continued to convene a book club at Juvenile Hall. The Essay Contest was expanded to include an Art Contest for the first time in 2023 which provided another opportunity for youth to express themselves.

In 2023 the Commission chose a specific focus on education for youth who are in custody. Several Commissioners met regularly with Department of Education personnel and facility personnel which resulted in mutually positive outcomes, and which will continue into next year.

As always, we want to thank the Juvenile Court Presiding Judge, Craig E. Arthur. The Executive Committee of the Commission meets with the Judge regularly and his support and guidance provide encouragement and affirmation to Commissioners as we perform our responsibilities. We also want to thank our Executive Administrative Assistant, Lii Toelupe, who keeps all of us organized and provides the backup we need to fulfill our roles. Our Legal Processing Specialist provides the minutes of our meetings for which we are grateful. Finally thank you to all our Stakeholders with whom we meet to keep apprised of all programs, innovations, and issues which are relevant to their agencies, and which impact the children and youth we all serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynda Perring".

Lynda Perring
Chairperson



THE ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION (JJC)



Front Row: Mary Lou Vachet, Lynda Perring, Amy Crowley, Jan Sturla
Back Row: Wyatt McClean, Dolores Yost, Silvestre Lopez, Judy Johnson,
Marcy Garfias, Steve Winder, Cheryl Hart, Michael Schumacher

JJC members are appointed to four-year terms by the Presiding Judge of the Orange County Superior Court

JJC is composed of 7-15 members, including two or more who are between 18 and 21 years old

JJC members have diverse backgrounds, which include professional experience in education, business, law, mental health, public administration, probation, social services, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

JJC members acted as liaison with youth-oriented community groups in 2023

JJC members attended youth related trainings and webinar in 2023

JJC members contributed over 2,000 volunteer hours in 2023

JJC is mandated by California Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 225-231 to annually inspect:

All youth-related publicly administered institutions; and

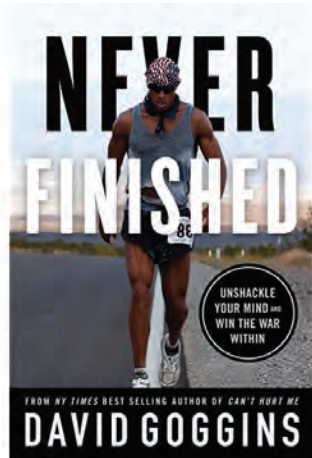
All jails or lockups which were used to house minors for more than 24 hours.

JJC may inquire into the operation of any group home within the County that serves wards or dependent children.

JJC may recommend changes to practices or procedures that it concludes would be beneficial

JUVENILE JUSTICE OUTREACH

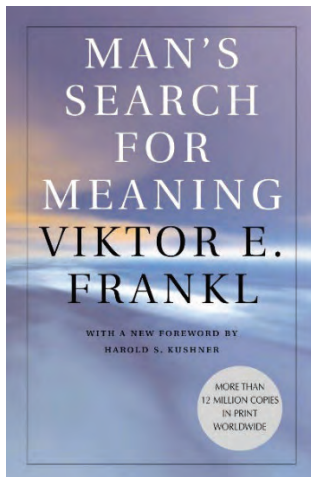
BOOK CLUB



"I enjoy being able to disagree with others in a way that is respectful and where I get to learn."

With the continued support of OC Probation, the Juvenile Justice Commission is proud to announce the successful completion of the second year of our book club. This program has been instrumental in fostering a love for reading and critical thinking among the participating youth. Through books selected by the UNIT "T" Youth, we have been able to ignite insightful conversations that help our young members gain a broader understanding of the world around them. Whether it's the mental grit exemplified by David Goggins in "Never Finished," or maintaining a positive state of mind as shown in Viktor Frankl's "Man's Search for Meaning," these books highlight areas of life from which we can all benefit.

The diverse range of literature covered in our sessions encourages the youth to explore different perspectives, cultures, and ideas. In addition, thanks to generous contributions, we have been able to provide a variety of snacks and fresh fruits, furthering the idea of trying new things and expanding their palates. Looking ahead, we are excited about the prospects of expanding this program to other units. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to OC Probation and our generous donors for their support. Together, we continue in our mission to foster a community of youth who love to read.



"I never imagined I would be in a book club, growing up I thought reading was boring."

JUVENILE JUSTICE OUTREACH

JJC ESSAY & VISUAL ARTS CONTEST



Left to right - back row: Richard Berman, Judy Johnson, Connie Marshall, Silvestre Lopez, Mary Lou Vachet, Steve Winder; Left to right - front row: Amy Crowley, Judge Cheri Pham, Lynda Perring, Madelyn Rodriguez, Wyatt McClean, Dolores Yost

The Juvenile Justice Commission's (JJC) 6th Annual **"Voices from Within"** Essay Contest and for the first time including a Visual Arts Exhibition was held in the Probation Department's spacious Multipurpose Rehabilitation Center (MRC). This event is an annual collaboration among the JJC, Probation Department and the Orange County Department of Education. The event is sponsored and supported by the office of Supervisor Foley, District 2 and Project Youth OC.

Sixty-seven students, including post-secondary youth graduates, submitted personal reflective essays in response to the writing prompt, **"Through My Eyes..."** All students who submitted an essay received a Certificate of Participation and a writing journal. A pizza party was hosted by the JJC for the winners and their respective living units to encourage a peer-supported positive group celebration.

Many youth are talented in the area of visual arts, so they were able to express themselves through graphite drawings focused on the same theme. Ten students submitted drawings. Their artwork was exhibited in the MRC as a gallery display.

This creative writing and visual arts activity has proven to be profound and self-empowering. These are some quotes:

"In Juvenile Hall, I look back at everything that has happened to me good or bad. After forgiving my father, I let go of all that anger and now I look forward to my future."

"I always had a love-hate relationship with hope but now it's one of the most valuable feelings to me. I know as long as there is hope in me, I will always prevail."

"A lesson I learned here is that for every action there's a reaction. The outcome can be negative or positive but it's all based on how you act."

2023 COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES

2,225 Volunteer Hours in 2023

16 STRTP/QRTP Unannounced Inspections

4 Institution Inspections

14 Law Enforcement Agency Inspections

19 Trainings and Webinars

23 Juvenile Justice Committee Meetings – including 4 Stakeholder Meetings

21 Liaison Committees

3 Commencement Ceremonies

Otto Fischer graduation



ACCESS graduation



Sunburst Youth Academy commencement



2023 JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION GUEST SPEAKERS

Guest Speaker: Hector Cervantes, Underground Scholars, UCI



Guest Speaker: Alicia Carranza, Health Educator, Tobacco Use Prevention Program



INSTITUTION INSPECTIONS

Annually, the Juvenile Justice Commission inspects the four facilities that provide residential care and services for those children/youth who are part of the Juvenile Justice System. The purpose of the inspections is to ensure that high quality and appropriate care is being provided. The four facilities are:

- Orange County Juvenile Hall
- Youth Leadership Academy (YLA)
- Youth Guidance Center (YGC)
- Oranewood Children and Family Center

The first three serve youth who are wards of the Court and the fourth serves dependency children and youth.

The Youth Leadership Academy serves males only with the remainder being male and female. All of the facilities provide therapeutic services, education consistent with all public school requirements, recreation and activity opportunities, and family visitation.

The goal for children and youth who are at the Oranewood Children and Family Center is to reunite them with their families or a suitable placement within 10 days.



SHORT TERM RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM FACILITIES

The Short Term Residential Treatment Program facilities (STRTP) are primarily 6 bed residences in residential neighborhoods. There are two which are larger, and they both accommodate 16 residents. The six bed homes are single gender while the larger programs can accommodate both males and females.

The focus of the Commission reviews of these facilities is on observing the physical condition of the facility, determining whether residents have sufficient food, clothing, access to education, access to recreation, and access to the required therapeutic interventions/services. Each review also includes meeting with one or two residents alone to determine how they view their experience in the residence. If a concern is noted, the Commission gives feedback to the administrator.



INSPECTIONS OF OC LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The JJC is mandated to inspect all law enforcement facilities where a minor is held in secure detention for any length of time and those where a minor is held in non-secure detention for 24 hours or more. No facility, other than the Probation-run institutions, holds minors for more than 24 hours. The JJC exceeds state law mandates by inspecting all facilities where a minor is held in non-secure detention for 6 hours or more. Listed below are OC law enforcement facilities operated by police or sheriff departments with their recent statistics on detention of minors. 2023 inspection dates are listed for those that met inspection criteria. The JJC inquired about topics such as human trafficking of minors, the role of School Resource Officers, community youth programs, and interactions with Probation and Social Services.

In 2022, fourteen Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) met the criteria for inspection and were subsequently inspected in 2023 as recorded in this chart.

Law Enforcement Agency	2023 Inspection	Number of Minors Detained		Minors in secure detention for any time		Minors in non-secure detention for 6+ Hours	
		2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Anaheim PD	April 14	107	232	8	0	0	2
Brea PD	June 7	14	30	2	3	0	0
Buena Park PD	April 18	103	77	1	5	0	0
Costa Mesa PD	May 12	147	186	6	5	0	0
Cypress PD	N/A	0	5	0	0	0	0
Fountain Valley PD	N/A	10	23	0	0	0	0
Fullerton PD	June 15	78	158	1	3	0	1
Garden Grove PD	N/A	75	88	0	0	0	0
Huntington Beach PD	N/A	55	54	0	2	0	0
Irvine PD	N/A	16	24	0	0	0	0
Laguna Beach PD	N/A	38	56	0	1	0	0
La Habra PD	June 7	64	66	10	9	0	0
La Palma PD	N/A	4	0	0	0	0	0
Los Alamitos PD	N/A	2	9	0	0	0	0
Newport Beach PD	N/A	31	46	0	0	0	0
Orange PD	N/A	30	24	0	0	0	0
Placentia PD	June 1	37	53	3	3	0	1
Santa Ana PD	May 19	79	100	60	17	0	0
Santa Ana Unified School District	May 19	10	19	0	0	10	0
Seal Beach PD	N/A	13	5	0	0	0	0
Tustin PD	N/A	86	101	0	0	0	0
Westminster PD	N/A	35	58	0	1	0	7
CSU Fullerton PD	June 15	2	0	2	0	0	0
Dana Point - OCSD	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Forest - OCSD	June 5	1	0	1	0	0	0
San Clemente OCSD	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0
SJ Capistrano OCSD	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aliso Viejo OCSD	June 5	3	1	3	1	0	0
Stanton OCSD	May 4	6	15	0	0	2	15
Yorba Linda OCSD	June 1	1	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS		1047	1430	98	33	12	20

TRAININGS AND WEBINARS

TRAFFICKING AND CRIMES AGAINST MINORS

Supporting Youth

CSEC 101 & Narcan

MENTAL HEALTH/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Screening, Assessing and Treating Pregnant Women with Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

Substance Use

The Neurobiology of Addiction and Continuum of Care

Keeping Youth Safe from Substance Use by Identifying Risks and Prevention Strategies

Fentanyl Forum

Opioid Crisis in OC

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in Jails and Drug Courts

Daybreak Dialogues: Minding Your Mental Health

RACISM/RACIAL EQUITY

Implicit Bias

GROUP HOMES/FOSTER CARE

Positive Youth Development

OYCR's Youth Action Justice: Positive Youth Justice

State of Sexual and Reproductive Health for Youth in Foster Care:
Delving Deeper into Reproductive Health Outcomes for Foster Youth

The Science of Attachment Relationships and Their Impact on Transitions:
A Child-Centered Approach to Child Protection

The mission of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission is to inquire into the administration of juvenile court law in this county and to ensure that the highest standards of care and services are maintained for the youth within the Juvenile Justice System.



To contact us or learn more,

go to: www.occourts.org/directory/juvenile/jjc

or email: jjc@occourts.org